

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08

FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 /133 W

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2252

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS CODE: DISCUSSIONS WITH
GATT SECRETARIAT AND CANADIANS

REF: STATE 19371

1. US MTN DEL (NEWKIRK) MET WITH GATT SECRETARIAT
(WILLIAMS) AND PRESENTED US PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR GROUP
AGRICULTURE REVIEW OF DRAFT STANDARDS CODE AS CON-
TAINED IN REFTEL. WILLIAMS CAUTIONED THAT HE HAD NOT
YET DISCUSSED THE MEETING WITH THE GATT SECRETARIAT AGRI-
CULTURAL EXPERTS, BUT SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID THAT
TH US SCENARIO IS THE SORT OF THING THAT HE HAD ENVIS-
AGED FOR THE MEETING AND THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A "VERY
SENSIBLE" APPROACH FROM THE SECRETARIAT POINT OF VIEW.

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HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS SCENARIO IN THE
SECRETARIAT AND PASS BACK ANY COMMENTS AND ANY ADDI-
TIONAL OBSERVATIONS THEY RECIEVE FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS.
AS FAR AS MECHANICS OF THE MEETING, WILLIAMS
THOUGHT THAT THE AIRGRAM ANNOUNCING THE MEETING COULD
INVITE INTERESTED DELEGATIONS TO SUBMIT PAPERS OUT-
LINING ANY PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING THE

APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT CODE TO AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS, THUS, FACILITATING THE GROUP'S DISCUSSIONS.

2. US MTN DEL ALSO DISCUSSED REFTTEL SCENARIO WITH CANADIANS (DENIS). DENIS, WHO WILL BE CANADIAN SPOKESMAN AT MEETING, HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE US APPROACH AND AGREED THAT WE SHOULD AVOID ANY DRAFTING EXERCISE. ACCORDING TO DENIS, CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE CONDUCTED AN INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE CODE AND EMERGED WITH CONSENSUS THAT THE CODE SHOULD COVER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING "CASE STUDIES" OF HOW CODE WOULD HAVE WORKED IN SITUATIONS INVOLVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (E.G. GATT NOTIFICATIONS) TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITH THE CODE'S APPLICATION TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. DENIS THOUGHT GROUP TROPICAL PRODUCTS TOTAL RELIANCE ON GROUP AGRICULTURE'S REVIEW WAS DESIRABLE, BUT UNLIKELY. DENIS SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT SPONSOR AN INFORMAL SESSION PRIOR TO THE GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING TO FURTHER COORDINATE POSITIONS. WALKER

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